

St. Helens Needs Thirty New Dwellings. A Good Investment. Get Busy Now

St. Helens Mist

OFFICIAL PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

PIONEER PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

VOLUME XXXVI.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1917

NO. 46

COLUMBIA CITY ROAD FAVORED BY MANY

IS VERY MUCH NEEDED
Expressions of Taxpayers as to Proposed Shorter Route.

In order to learn how the taxpayers in this vicinity stood on the matter of building a more direct road to Columbia City, many of the leading citizens of the city have been interviewed, and with a single exception were in favor of such road. Our understanding of the route is that it will begin at the intersection of Wilamette and Winter streets, running out Winter street to the city limits. A short distance further on a slight deviation from a straight route would have to be made in order to avoid a hill. Judge Hattan is of the opinion that the grading could be done for \$5,000, and a few thousand dollars additional would put the road in first class condition. It would come into Columbia City on Fourth street. Just between the Sommerstrom store and the dwellings he is building on that street. Judge Hattan, speaking from the standpoint of taxpayers and citizens, said he thought the road was necessary, that it would relieve the heavy traffic sure to come on the highway and would shorten the distance between the two towns.

Glen H. Metaker is much in favor of the road. He thinks it is absolutely necessary. Judge Dart thinks that it would "be all right" to build the road, and is in favor of it.

Jacob George is heartily in favor of the new road, as is Von Gray and J. E. Ramsey.

Henry Morgus favors the road and wants to see work begin at once. He offers to make a personal contribution towards the construction expense. J. H. Thatcher has also made a similar offer.

A. S. Harrison believes the new road "would be a step in the right direction" and is willing to help out in a financial way.

George Shinn's opinion is:

"The proposed new road between St. Helens and Columbia City will be of great benefit to the people of those places as well as to the general traveling public, as it will shorten the distance and do away with one of the most dangerous grade crossings in the state, where several persons have been killed. At the same time it will not interfere in the least with the west side Columbia River Highway, but will prove a positive benefit thereto, as it will relieve the congestion of traffic that is bound to come when the highway is paved to the sea. At present we must cross the railroad twice in going to and from Columbia City and St. Helens. Personally I am in favor of the west side for the Columbia River Highway, and always have been, as it is the shortest and best route, and avoids dangerous grade crossings for the people of the whole state who will use it. At the same time and for the same reasons, I also favor the shortest routes for local roads for the people of Columbia county, such as the Tremholm, Bachelor Flat, Bunker Hill and proposed road from St. Helens to Columbia City, as they will be feeders to the state highway and will at the same time relieve the traffic on the main highway, which will be enormous when the highway is completed."

Martin White is heartily in favor of the road, as is W. B. Dillard and J. W. Day. They think if the highway is built with the idea of eliminating dangerous grade crossings, that the same idea should be followed by St. Helens people, for the new road would eliminate two dangerous crossings. Dr. L. G. Ross has been over the route and is an enthusiastic booster for the road. Manager Flynn of the Independent Auto Co. favors the new road, as does E. A. Rotger and Dr. Hoskin.

L. R. Rutherford says "With the highway located on the west side, this shorter and safer road is absolutely necessary. The new industries at Columbia City will employ a large number of men, and there will be an immense amount of traffic between the two towns the year round, and a large number of school children from Columbia City will attend the St. Helens high school. If the new (Continued on Page 6)

FILINGS WILL BE SUBJECT TO TAX

After December 1 Government Tax Law in Effect.

How to apply war stamp taxes relating to conveyances of real estate, mortgages, promissory notes and stock issues, which goes into effect December 1, will be of interest to all people who deal in land, and County Clerk Barnett has furnished the Mist with the following information relative to the matter:

In filing deeds the new tax amounts to 50 cents on considerations between \$100 and \$500, and 50 cents for each additional \$500. This is equivalent to a tax of one-tenth of one per cent.

There will be no stamp taxes on mortgages given to secure part payment. The tax on deeds is to be figured only on the equity over incumbrances and relates only to lands sold. Thus it will be seen that gifts, conveyances to dummies and other transfers not involved in the actual carrying out of a sale need not be stamped.

Exchanges must be treated as sales and stamps affixed for fair values of the equities exchanged. When a purchase money mortgage is given back to the seller, the mortgage should be mentioned in the deed and then the tax will be figured only on the equity above the purchase money mortgage.

A stamp tax will be charged on mortgage indebtedness or bonds to secure indebtedness and each renewal thereof. Each agreement extending time of indebtedness must be stamped like an original mortgage. The amount of the tax is 5 cents on each \$100 of face value of the mortgage or mortgage securing the bond issue.

Collateral bonds on mortgage surety bonds and any other bonds not given to secure indebtedness are to be stamped 50 cents each; powers of attorney 25 cents each.

Promissory notes will be stamped 2 cents for each sum not exceeding \$100 and 2 cents for each additional \$100 or fractional part thereof.

On each original issue of capital stock, 5 cents on each \$100 of face value or fraction thereof, and 5 cents on each share of stock issued without face value, unless the actual value is in excess of \$100 per share, in which case the tax will be 5 cents on each \$100 of actual value. The stamps on original issues of stock must be attached to the stub in the stock book and not the certificates. Like stamps must be placed upon the certificates or agreements of sales of stocks. All processes for voting at elections or meetings of corporations will be stamped 10 cents each.

All stamp taxes are to be paid by the person who signs or issues the taxable instrument or sells the land described or covered in the deed. The validity of the deed, mortgage or certificate of stock is not affected in case the instrument is not stamped.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

For the past few weeks the high school has been singing for opening exercises. At first the leader, Miss Huggins, was very much discouraged but lately she seems delighted at the way in which the pupils exercise their vocal powers.

The high school gave a Halloween party last Saturday evening. Each young man brought his appointed "best girl," and a wonderfully good time was had. The auditorium was beautifully decorated with autumn leaves, jack o' lanterns, ghosts and witches. After playing a number of Halloween games, refreshments were served and "the couples" departed, all saying what a good time they had.

The high school football team has played two more games, both being played with Franklin high of Portland. We won the game played on our field, the score being 6 to 0, but Franklin won the game played on their field, 12 to 0. The boys promised to win both games, but being on a new field and having new experiences, it was an utter impossibility.

TELEPHONE STRIKE

Although many of the Portland telephone operators walked out on a strike Wednesday at midnight, the telephone company was able to give good service from their Astoria station. The local operators are not members of the union and stayed at their posts.

COUNTY NEARLY ON CASH BASIS

Money in General Fund but General Road Fund in Debt.

According to figures compiled by County Treasurer Hunt, Columbia county is nearer to being out of debt than at any time during the past several years. The general fund has a credit balance of \$8,000, which is estimated enough to carry out the county's work until January 1, at which time warrants will again be endorsed. The general road fund has a debit balance of about \$8,000, but it is not expected that this amount will be greatly increased before the first of the year. Road District No. 1 is in debt \$1,732.45; District No. 6, \$2,642.26; District No. 7, \$854.11; District No. 8, \$454; and District No. 10, \$804.23. All of the other road districts have credit balances. The fact that Columbia county recently received the O. & C. land tax is responsible for the present good showing, as Sheriff Stanwood turned over to the treasurer the tidy sum of \$42,283.53, which represented taxes for the following years:

1913 \$19,464.24
1914 12,452.44
1915 10,366.85

Miss Fern Hobbs, private secretary for ex-Governor Oswald West, who is now special agent for the government in the tax matters, personally brought the United States treasury checks and delivered them to the sheriff.

LETTERS FROM LOCAL SOLDIERS IN FRANCE

Lester Wellington and Harold Decker Write of Experiences.

Mrs. A. J. Deming has received the following letter from Lester Wellington:

On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force.

Dear Aunt: Just a few lines to pass away the time. We are doing nothing just at present, but will soon be working hard. I am trying to learn French just at present. It is not hard to learn the names of different things, but when it comes to forming sentences it is a different matter. We like the French fine. They have many funny customs. Whenever they meet a friend they shake hands and palaver around. They are good sports and they treat us a lot. It is funny to see a Frenchman who gets only six francs (\$1.50) a month treat soldiers who get over 300 francs. We haven't been paid for two months so we have about 700 francs coming. That is a fortune over here.

The weather is fine. The sun shines every day, and it is real warm.

The French soldiers get wine every meal but our lieutenant wouldn't let us have it. He said that where the French were satisfied with a glass or two the Americans wanted several bottles. He is right, too.

I have traveled several different ways in France. We made one journey in box cars. It was rough riding.

You will notice by the paper that the Y. M. C. A. follows us everywhere. It is surely a remarkable organization. Sunday we have a ball game. It really seems just like the U. S. A. except for language and a few minor things. I suppose that things are pretty high in the states. Well, will close now with best love to all.

Your loving nephew,
LESTER WELLINGTON.
32 Aero Squad.
Somewhere in France.

The following interesting letter was received by a friend of Harold Decker.

Dear Friend: I suppose you are wondering why I don't write. Well I am a long way from home. I am writing this letter "somewhere on the Atlantic ocean." We left Fort Jay, N. Y., September 8. We didn't know where we were going when we started. We got on a small boat and went to Hoboken, N. J., and marched on to the British transport. We left Hoboken at 2 o'clock that afternoon, and when we got out into the Atlantic we did not go east as we expected to, but went north for two days and landed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Monday, September 10. We stayed in Halifax till Wednesday. (Continued on Page 3)

THE ESKIMOS OF THE LOWER YUKON

Indians Disappear and Broad, High-Cheeked Stupidity Takes Place.

(M. J. Brown)

The Sarah left Tanana in the night, and early the next morning I went on deck. Our boat was pushing eight barges, every one of them almost as large as the steamer—one on each side and six in front, all tied together, and this bunch must be piloted down the crooked stream and steered clear of the bars. And I would remark here that a pilot on the Yukon is entitled to a nervous breakdown any time he wants it. It was a revelation to me how they could know every channel in that river for a thousand mile run. Here they will hug the bank so close one could almost jump ashore, then they steer to the middle of the river for a time, cross to the opposite side, and come back, and apparently every turn of the river looks just like the other one.

We reached Circle City in the morning. The whole population came down to see the boat in and out, and I only saw two white women. I did not see a white child in the town. The miners laid in a supply of bottled goods, the whistle blew, the dogs howled and on we went.

At the junction of the Koyukuk several passengers came aboard from the Beetles country, the most northerly mining district in Alaska. This is yet a producing district, and a real wild one—a locality where they tow up two loads of booze to one of grub, and of which I will have more to write in further articles.

Holy Cross is a mission, the oldest in Alaska, and has been there for 50 years. The Catholics have a grant of the land and they will not permit saloons, gambling houses or outsiders to locate, in fact it was necessary to anchor an abandoned steamer to the shore to be used for hotel purposes. I was told the mission had done a wonderful work for the natives.

Miles below Holy Cross there was a Russian mission, at which the boat did not stop. Evidently they had plenty of grub for the winter and didn't receive any mail. The boat ran close to the bank and we had a splendid view of the big Greek church, a magnificent structure in this remote place. And it looked so out of place in these surroundings. Around it was scattered the Indian village, but we did not see a sign of life. Doubtless all the inhabitants were out rustling preparations for the long winter, which would soon set in.

Sitting on the deck one afternoon afar off on the land ahead I saw a cluster of white dots. It was a new strike—Willow Creek—and a few miles further down was Marshall, its supply town. The white dots were tents.

Gold was struck in Willow Creek two years ago; the usual stampede followed, and the whole hillside was staked. As the boat neared the camp I could see that it was located at the bottom of a little depression on the hillside, where a small stream ran. On either side of this strike were exactly similar draws, where small streams had worn down channels and where they all came together at this bottom and emptied into the Yukon. But it was only on the middle stream that the pay streak was found.

And such is mining in Alaska. Mining experience does not count. A "Cheechego" stands a better chance than a "sour dough," for he will stake anywhere, and often strike it, while the experienced miner will try to figure it out, and miss.

I had been wondering where the upper river Indian would leave off and the Eskimo commence. I found it was at Marshall, and it was most curious. Not a sign of an Eskimo in any of the towns we had passed, and in Marshall they were nearly all of that race, breed, tribe, or whatever they are. And the curious observation was that the Indians and Eskimos are almost as distinct as the Indian and white man.

It was a strange sight to me—this sudden change. The Indians had suddenly disappeared and in their places were the short, fat and squatty Eskimos.

(Continued on Page 3)

Subscribe for the Mist.

LIBERTY BOND QUOTA SUBSCRIBED

Entire County Makes Good Showing in Bond Buying.

St. Helens made it an even \$42,000 in subscriptions for the Second Liberty Loan bonds, filling its quota. The amount of individual subscriptions amounted to a little more than \$33,000, and the bank took up the balance. Rainier more than doubled its quota of \$17,000, and Clatskanie raised 94 per cent of its \$36,000. Had all of the subscriptions from St. Helens passed through the local bank instead of being taken in Portland, St. Helens would have had several more thousands to its credit. We know of several subscriptions ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 for which St. Helens should have had credit, but Portland got the credit. On account of the rush at the bank and the large amount of detail work necessary to get out a full list of subscribers, we are unable to publish this week the names of those who subscribed during the last two days of the campaign, but next week will.

Y. M. C. A. FUND TO BE RAISED

County's Proportion of Amount to Be Raised is \$1,500.

A. L. Stone, executive chairman for Columbia county on the Y. M. C. A. \$35,000,000 war fund, has received notice from Portland headquarters that Columbia county is expected to contribute \$1,500 towards this good work. Oregon's share is \$100,000. Mr. Stone will soon appoint his committees and start the campaign in the county. The Y. M. C. A. is doing a noble work for the soldier boys, and our people realizing this will no doubt respond liberally to the call for help. As soon as the county organization is complete the Mist will be furnished with further details of the campaign.

HOW TO SEND MAIL TO SOLDIERS ABROAD

Now that several of our St. Helens boys are in France and more on the way, the local postoffice is daily receiving inquiries as to how to send mail matter and packages to the boys at the front. Mrs. Dodd has recently received from the postmaster general the following instructions relative to the handling and sending of mail:

"All mail matter originating in the United States or any of its possessions for transmission to soldiers and others, including civilians connected with the United States expeditionary forces in Europe, and all mail originating with these forces for transmission to the United States or its possessions are subject to the domestic classification. Parcel post matter to and from the forces in Europe must not exceed 20 pounds in weight. The eighth zone rate of 12 cents per pound or fraction thereof will be charged. Parcels may not be registered, insured or sent C. O. D. Every parcel must bear the sender's name and address, which should be placed in the upper left hand corner of the address side, and parcels should be securely wrapped and plainly addressed as indicated below. For instance:

Return to
For John Smith, Jr.,
Co. X, — Infantry,
American Expeditionary Forces.
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VALUATION OF ROAD DISTRICTS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON, FOR THE YEAR 1917.

No. Dist.	Values as Equalized by County Board.	Value of Assessment to be Made by State Tax Commission, Estimated from 1916 Assessment.	Total.
1	\$ 810,990	\$ 191,505	\$ 1,002,495
2	452,720	86,470	539,190
3	1,166,435	130,590	1,297,025
4	914,875	156,930	1,071,805
5	1,052,680	112,935	1,165,615
6	1,096,810	349,130	1,445,940
7	1,107,890	415,670	1,523,560
8	1,252,000	770	1,252,770
9	1,814,725	605	1,815,330
10	294,800	34,310	329,110
11	183,455	133,455	316,910
12—St. Helens	716,500	53,125	769,625
13—Goble	27,215	24,140	51,355
14—Rainier	500,895	89,545	590,440
15—Clatskanie	170,735	5,405	176,140
16—Vernonia	25,930	20	25,950
Total	\$11,588,645	\$1,651,150	\$13,239,795

NINE MEN LEAVE FOR CAMP LEWIS

MORE TO FOLLOW SOON
Another Call Soon to Be Made to Fill County's Quota.

The last of the men called on the first draft and accepted by the local and district exemption boards for military service, will leave this morning for Camp Lewis, Washington. The men put in an appearance yesterday afternoon and received instructions from Sheriff Stanwood and County Clerk Barnett. They are ordered to report at the courthouse early this morning and proceed to the depot to take the 9:12 train, which will connect at Goble with the Great Northern train and the men should arrive at Camp Lewis at 3 o'clock. Those who will go are:

George E. Christie, St. Helens.
John H. Beaver, St. Helens.
Henry Robberding, Rainier.
Henry H. Hansen, Rainier.
Bord S. Hegill, Rainier.
Ole Brevik, Deer Island.
George Nones, St. Helens.
Oscar Salmi, Kerry.
John Randa, Kerry.

Mr. Barnett states that the local board will soon issue another call to make up the county's quota, as he is unofficially informed that out of the 40 men sent to Camp Lewis six have been rejected. So it is probable that at least 20 more men will be called for examination so as to insure the number of men to be sent.

No entertainment is prepared for the men who leave this morning, as practically all of them have been entertained on two previous occasions.

CONGRESSMAN HAWLEY VISITS ST. HELENS

Is Entertained by Business Men at Informal Dinner.

Congressman W. C. Hawley was in St. Helens Wednesday afternoon and evening conferring with his constituents. He was met at the depot by a committee, and in Fred Morgus' big car was taken to the shipyards at Columbia City. He expressed his satisfaction at the progress being made on government vessels, both at the Sommerstrom and St. Helens yards. In the evening he was guest of twenty St. Helens business and professional men at a dinner at the St. Helens hotel. Mr. Hawley told many interesting facts of the government's preparations to defeat the kaiser's army. He stated that at the present time there were 200,000 American troops in France, and the government is wasting no time in getting more over there. The congressman left early Thursday morning for Oregon City, where he was to make an address before the "Live Wire" club.

PLEDGE CARDS FREELY SIGNED

The people of St. Helens and surrounding country have entered into the food saving campaign with willingness and earnestness. In almost every house is displayed the Food Pledge card. The work has been carried on to a great extent through the school teachers and the school children are giving great assistance. A report from Washington states that to date 2,722,918 families have enlisted in the cause of food conservation. The figures were from about thirty states and in almost every case the number of enrollments is beyond expectations.